

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 10240 227 6

1945-
52

6358
58

No. *6358.58

1945-52



GIVEN BY

Boston City Messenger

[DOCUMENT 35 — 1948.]



*6358.58
1945-1952

~~NOV 7 1945~~
~~NOV 7 1945~~

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1947

Boston, January 15, 1948.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

DEAR SIR:

In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1947.

ORGANIZATION.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, a chief deputy sealer, sixteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation of working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of ten trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

REWEIGHINGS MADE OF FOOD AND FUEL.

The work of testing and sealing weighing and measuring devices comes first because without accurate equipment for weighing or measuring merchandise no one could be expected to deliver accurate weight or measure. This work would prove of small value if subsequent effort was not made to determine how these devices were being used. Orders made up and awaiting delivery; fuel in transit and the ordering of goods by our deputies with the subsequent reweighing to determine the accuracy, form this branch of our work.

A list of the weighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Under.	Over.	Correct.
Food.....	23,955	1,473	3,429	19,053
Fuel.....	1,889	90	512	1,287
Miscellaneous.....	14	.....	.....	14
Totals.....	25,858	1,563	3,941	20,354

Found correct, 78.7 per cent; found underweight, 6.0 per cent; found overweight, 15.3 per cent.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above class of dealers. Licenses and permits are issued by the

Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston.

Licenses were issued as follows:

Divisions of Standards:

City of Boston licenses	418 at \$25	\$10,450
County of Suffolk licenses	109 at 9	981

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	292 at 12	3,504
Outside licenses	197 at 7	1,379
Ice permits	423 at 2	846
Total		<u>\$17,160</u>

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the above amount that is received as the result of the enforcement of the above law by this department and paid to the City Collector, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$21,333.30.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$66,134.45.

The services of the department were extended to 13,794 business concerns and the following equipment was tested:

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	Not Sealed.	Condemned.
Scales	2,439	19,794	95	558
Weights	509	34,711		192
Volumetric measures	139	3,129		5
Automatic liquid measuring devices	1,224	9,481	38	64
Linear measures		1,463		18
Leather measuring devices		12		
Taximeters		3,130		10
Miscellaneous		35		
Totals	4,291	71,755	133	847

Total devices examined 72,735

Devices tested and sealed	71,755	98.65%
Devices condemned for repairs	847	1.16%
Devices tagged not sealed	133	.19%
Total	72,735	100%
Found necessary to adjust before sealing .	4,291	5.9%

It is interesting to note that during the year the department received 1,225 requests to test and seal new equipment before being placed in service. This is a further indication that the vast majority of the business concerns are ready and willing to comply with the General Laws that require that all new equipment be tested and sealed before being placed in service.

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year the department received 98 complaints, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings made to the person making the complaint.

It is the duty of this department to protect the entire public which it serves in all matters involving the commercial determination of quantity, to see to it that whenever merchandise or service is bought or sold by weight or measure, a just weight or measure is delivered and that fraud, carelessness and ignorance are eliminated.

At all times we earnestly request the public to call to our attention any violations of weights and measures laws.

During the year four violations were presented to the courts and the defendants were found guilty.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

After weighing and measuring devices are sealed, frequent inspections of them are made to make certain that they are maintained in the same condition as they were left at the time of sealing. In certain instances the law prescribes the size, shape and dimensions of containers. The inspection of these containers, the examination of coal as to quality and the inspection of hawkers and pedlers and other related items form this branch of our work.

A summary follows:

Places visited to investigate complaints received	98
Inspections made relating to fuel	2,986
Inspections relating to food and food containers	24,263
Inspections of weighing and measuring devices after sealing	19,171
Inspections of hawkers and pedlers	6,226
Total	<u>52,744</u>

CONCLUSION.

In concluding the report of the department the Sealer extends his sincerest thanks to all public-spirited citizens who have in any way cooperated with the department during the year. I desire to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the employees for the loyalty they have expressed in the performance of all of the work to which they have been assigned.

I also wish to acknowledge the cooperation and support of his Honor Mayor Curley as shown in his approval of my recommendations for new equipment. During the past year four new trucks were placed in service and the coming year will see further replacements that will when received result in greater efficiency in the department.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1946

BOSTON, January 13, 1947.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

SIR,— In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1946.

ORGANIZATION.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, eighteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation of working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of nine trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.



GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Business concerns serviced for sealing of weighing and measuring devices	13,223
Devices tested and sealed	70,505
Fees collected for sealing and adjusting devices, ...	\$21,007.20
Expenditures of the department	61,171.34
Food and fuel commodities reweighed	21,532
Inspections and tests of devices after sealing	52,504
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Violations prosecuted in the courts	26
Fines imposed by the courts for violations	750

REWEIGHING OF FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER
COMMODITIES.

Most dealers are honest; they are aware that a reputation for fair and honest dealings can only be acquired by the dealer who serves his customers fairly and honestly.

Carelessness causes many errors. Dealers may be doing all they possibly can to give you honest weight and measure but a careless employee is often responsible for the incorrect weight or measure received by the consumer.

To protect the consumers of this city against carelessness or dishonest dealers and employees of this de-

partment during the past year devoted considerable time to reweighing of food and fuel and other commodities.

A list of the reweighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food:				
Bread.....	4,793	4,456	150	187
Butter—lard.....	693	618	61	14
Confectionery.....	1,758	1,610	60	88
Dry commodities.....	387	341	.....	46
Flour—sugar.....	230	96	108	26
Fruits—vegetables—potatoes.....	5,557	4,420	311	826
Meats—provisions—poultry.....	2,435	2,380	37	18
Miscellaneous.....	2,040	1,472	148	420
Tea—coffee.....	1,456	1,208	76	172
Fish.....	41	39	2	
Cooking oils.....	175	175		
Fuel:				
Coke in paper bags.....	3	.....	1	2
Coal in paper bags.....	570	495	20	55
Coal—loads in transit.....	670	98	8	564
Coal in 100-pound bags.....	102	58	23	21
Kindling wood in paper bags.....	50	45	5	
Liquid—heating fuels.....	25	22	2	1
Cordwood and firewood.....	3	2	1	
Kindling wood.....	19	19		
Barge loads of coal.....	2	1	1	
Coke in 100-pound bags.....	7	.....	7	
Miscellaneous:				
Yarn.....	364	50	278	36
Sand and gravel.....	2	1	1	
Wax.....	13	.....	13	
Laundry.....	7	7		
Wool waste.....	4	1	3	
Metal.....	13	13		
Holly beads.....	70	.....	70	
Totals:.....	21,489	17,640	1,392	2,476

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year 1946 the department received 99 complaints from citizens, each one being investigated,

and when possible a report of our finding sent to the person making the complaint.

This department needs the active support of the purchasing public in reporting violations of weights and measures laws.

In addition to the investigation of complaints made to the department investigations on our own initiative were made, with the result that 26 violations were presented to the courts and fines amounting to \$750 were imposed.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

This is a branch of our work for which no income is received. It includes the testing and inspection of devices after sealing, food packages for markings, containers, licenses, badges, etc., of pedlers.

Places of business visited for purpose of inspection	2,135
Skins of yarn for marking	234
Ice cream packages inspected for capacity	47
Weighers of coal and goods licenses inspected	349
Quantity of coal estimated in bin	6
Coke inspected for quality	1
Coal yards inspected for quality of coal	340
Pedlers' licenses inspected	3,980
Coal certificates examined for correctness	910
Loaves of bread inspected for correct markings	4,793
Food in package form inspected for correct markings, ...	12,506
Coal in 25-pound paper bags for correct markings	570
Kindling wood in paper bags for correct markings	125
Wholesale milk cans for capacity indicators	1,150
Transient vendors inspected	5
Clinical thermometers for seal	174
Pedlers' scales for seals, location, etc.	2,322
Ice scales for seals	1,192
Ice cream containers for markings	400
Lubricating oil jars for seals	11,303
Glass graduates for seals	224
Liquid measures for seals	1,064
Vehicle tank meters for seals	73
Scales inspected for seals, location, etc.	6,805
Miscellaneous inspections	141
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Climax baskets for capacity	37
U. S. hampers for capacity	326
Massachusetts standard boxes for capacity	193
Cranberry containers for capacity	300
Apple boxes for capacity	420
Total	<u>52,504</u>

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above class of dealers. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston.

Licenses were issued as follows:

Division of Standards:

City of Boston licenses	412 at \$25	\$10,300
County of Suffolk licenses	98 at 9	882

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	232 at 12	2,784
Outside licenses	183 at 7	1,281
Ice permits	441 at 2	882

Total		<u>\$16,129</u>
-------	--	-----------------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the above amount that is received as the result of the enforcement of the above law by this department and paid to the City Collector, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$21,007.20.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$61,171.34.

Appended is a table of the testing, adjusting and sealing and condemning of the various devices in use in the City of Boston. The services of the department were extended to 13,223 business concerns.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report I wish to extend my thanks to all those who, in any way, brought to our attention any violation of the laws or who, in any measure, cooperated with the department during the year 1946.

To the staff assisting me in this important work I share any credit for the satisfactory way in which it was carried on.

I also wish to acknowledge the cooperation and support of his Honor Mayor Curley as shown in his approval of my recommendations for new equipment, that will when received result in greater efficiency in the department.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*

APPENDIX.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	Tagged "Not in Use."	Condemned.
Scales:				
Platform, over 10,000 pounds.....	22	168	5	12
Platform, 5,000 to 10,000 pounds....	23	172	.....	5
Platform, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	396	4,496	66	141
Counter, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	63	559	37	9
Counter, under 100 pounds.....	543	3,077	15	61
Beam, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	7	150	4	1
Beam, under 100 pounds.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Spring, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	37	947	3	39
Spring, under 100 pounds.....	315	3,919	21	94
Computing, 100 to 5,000 pounds....	7	99	.....	4
Computing, under 100 pounds.....	931	4,355	.....	138
Personal weigher (slot).....	34	1,078	21	22
Prescription.....	36	499	2	16
Jewelers'.....	22	223	1	2
Weights:				
Avoirdupois.....	209	24,970	.....	20
Apothecary.....	48	5,276	.....	133
Metric.....	10	2,852	.....	7
Troy.....	16	2,388	.....	12
Volumetric measures:				
Vehicle tank (compartments).....	105*	105	.....	.....
Liquid measures, over 1 gallon.....	15	701	.....	2
Liquid measures.....	.....	2,205	.....	3
Fuel baskets.....	.....	9	.....	2
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Gasoline pumps.....	2	16	.....	.....
Turpentine pumps.....	3	14	.....	.....
Linseed oil — alcohol pumps.....	.....	8	.....	.....
Oil pumps.....	243	2,170	22	22
Stops on pumps.....	†	2,729	.....	.....
Gasoline meter systems.....	160	2,077	32	8
Vehicle tank meter systems.....	248	509	2	34
Bulk station meter systems.....	107	168	4	7
Grease measuring devices.....	.....	901	.....	.....

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.— *Concluded.*

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	Tagged "Not in Use."	Condemned.
Linear measures:				
Yard sticks.....		917		
Cloth measuring devices.....		271		3
Leather measuring devices:				
Power machines.....		9		1
Hand racks.....		3		
Taximeters.....		2,466		20
Miscellaneous.....	3	3		
Totals.....	4,105	70,505	235	1,118

* On 39 trucks, 105 compartments, capacity 82,170 gallons.

† On 2,203 pumps.

13,223 places of business serviced.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

BOSTON, January 2, 1945.

HON. JOHN E. KERRIGAN,
Acting Mayor of Boston.

SIR,— In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1944.

ORGANIZATION.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, sixteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector. At the present time, three members of the department are serving with the armed forces of the United States.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation of working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of nine trucks are in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, peddlers, and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal when offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Business concerns serviced for sealing of weighing and measuring devices	12,064
Devices tested and sealed	68,742
Fees charged for sealing and adjusting devices	\$19,542.75
Expenditures of the department	\$46,464.53
Food and fuel commodities reweighed	27,651
Inspections and tests of devices after sealing	57,652
Complaints investigated and adjusted	131
Violations prosecuted in the courts	31
Fines imposed by the courts for violations	\$845.00

REWEIGHING OF FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

The vast majority of the merchants in this city are honest and fair in their dealings with the public. They welcome inspections by this department, they know that after having their weighing or measuring devices tested and sealed by this department that they are protected against loss arising from incorrect devices.

There are however some few who seek to enrich themselves by selling commodities by short weight or measure.

To protect the consumers of this city against this class of dealer and to correct errors that do arise due to inexperienced help and haste in the packaging of merchandise, this department during the past year devoted considerable time to the reweighing of goods put up in

advance of sale. This work also consisted of reweighing of orders awaiting delivery, and the ordering of merchandise to determine whether charges were made for trays, paper, etc., used in the packages; merchandise was also reweighed to determine whether the correct weight was received. A list of the reweighings made during the year follows.

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food:				
Fruit and produce.....	3,940	3,339	166	435
Meats and poultry.....	2,568	1,989	104	475
Tea and coffee.....	4,487	4,337	66	84
Butter.....	3,583	2,509	929	145
Cheese.....	1,050	772	15	263
Bread.....	2,218	1,990	92	136
Candy.....	1,646	1,406	.....	240
Nuts.....	518	398	23	97
Sugar.....	1,407	1,205	82	120
Flour.....	80	80		
Dried fruits.....	122	122		
Spaghetti.....	114	112	.....	2
Cocoa.....	215	215		
Potato chips.....	100	50	.....	50
Pie filling.....	30	30		
Cranberries.....	44	37	7	
Oleomargarine and lard.....	680	680		
Spinach.....	24	.....	.....	24
Tomatoes.....	215	201	.....	14
Baked beans.....	35	35		
Pretzels.....	24	24		
Citrus fruits.....	90	12	68	10
Bagged potatoes.....	1,695	581	334	780
Cake.....	236	190	18	28
Marshmallow.....	76	44	32	
Crabmeat and fish.....	144	104	40	
Canned eggs.....	10	10		
Spices.....	96	96		
Various dry commodities.....	451	320	41	90
Fuel:				
Coal in transit.....	573	233	3	337
Coke in transit.....	6	3	.....	3

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Fuel:				
Coal in 25-pound paper bags.....	730	140	20	570
Coke in paper bags.....	23	20	.....	3
Briquettes in paper bags.....	38	38		
Coal in 100-pound bags.....	115	46	21	48
Wood measurements, cord and firewood...	13	11	1	1
Ice.....	24	11	1	12
Miscellaneous:				
Writing paper.....	12	2	10	
Freight.....	25	25		
Dog food.....	150	100	.....	50
Wall paper paste.....	1	1		
Plant food.....	43	2	.....	41
Totals.....	27,651	21,520	2,073	4,058

Found correct, 77.8 per cent; found underweight, 7.5 per cent; found overweight, 14.7 per cent.

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year 1944 the department received 131 complaints from citizens, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings sent to the person making the complaint.

This department needs the active support of the purchasing public in reporting violations of weights and measures laws. Their cooperation is earnestly requested; they can greatly aid by reporting any irregularity to this department.

In addition to the investigation of complaints made to the department, investigations on our own initiative were made, with the result that 31 violations were presented to the courts and fines amounting to \$845 were imposed.

For short weight in the sale of food	15
For using unsealed weighing devices	4
For short measure in the sale of range oil	1
For peddling without a license	1
For short weight in the sale of coal or coke	3
For delivering poor quality coal	1
For using scales not complying with legal standards	5
For failure to issue a proper coal certificate	1

Cases found guilty and fined	22
Cases found guilty and filed	2
Cases found not guilty and discharged	2
Summons refused by the court	2
Pleaded nolo	1

 31

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

This is a branch of our work for which no income is received. It includes the testing and inspection of devices after sealing, food packages for markings, containers, licenses, badges, etc., of pedlars.

Places visited for the purpose of inspection and test	2,263
Complaints investigated and adjusted	131
Food packages inspected for content marks, etc.	19,684
Pedlars investigated for licenses and condition of equipment:	

Fuel	1,299
Ice	66
Produce	2,424
Wood	7
Ice cream	24
Shopping bags, razor blades, etc.	108
Miscellaneous	52

Devices inspected for seals, accuracy and condition:

Oil bottles	12,952
Scales	9,377
Wood baskets	9
Liquid measures	1,416
Taximeters	592
Vehicle tank meters	146
Glass graduates	89
Clinical thermometers	135
Oil truck compartments	40
Milk cans	668
Milk bottles	2,675
Ice cream containers	225
Marshmallow containers	112
Grape lugs	48

Tests:

Gasoline pumps	49
Mellon boxes	68
Apple boxes	44
Blueberry baskets	8
Cranberry boxes	3
Massachusetts Standard boxes	35
Milk cans	50
Milk bottles	225

Bread inspected for markings and labels	2,218
Coal measured in bins	5
Coke measured in bins	2
Inspections made at coal yards for quality of coal	266
Coal weighers inspected for weigher's license	134
Coal sample taken for test	2
Coke sample taken for test	1
Total	<u>57,652</u>

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above-named dealers and during the year devoted much time to this work. These dealers are required to be licensed annually and in order to secure the various types of licenses must first obtain the approval of this department specifying that all weighing or measuring devices used by them have been tested and sealed. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston. Licenses were issued as follows:

Division of Standards:			
City licenses	359 at \$25		\$8,975
Suffolk County licenses	91 at 9		819
Health Commissioner:			
Market licenses	194 at \$12		2,328
Local licenses	136 at 7		952
Ice permit plates	392 at 2		784
Total amount deposited with City Collector,			<u>\$13,858</u>

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the above amount received indirectly, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$19,590.50.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$46,464.53.

Appended is a table of the testing, adjusting and sealing and condemning of the various devices in use in the City of Boston. There were 12,064 business places serviced during the year.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding the report for this department for the year 1944, the Sealer feels justified in stating that every effort was made to offer a high degree of protection to the people in all transactions that involved the use of weights and measures.

The success of the work of the department for the past year is due to the effort on the part of the employees who throughout the year have been faithful in the performance of the work assigned them.

To the employees, to his Honor Mayor Tobin, the Director of Standards and his inspectors and to all citizens who have cooperated with the department during the past year the Sealer extends his sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*

APPENDIX.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed	Not Sealed.	Condemned.
Scales:				
Platforms, over 10,000 pounds.....	24	206	.....	32
Platforms, 5,000 to 10,000 pounds...	24	165	.....	5
Platforms, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	681	4,284	106	195
Counters, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	83	216	26	27
Counters, under 100 pounds.....	467	2,713	.....	52
Beams, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	3	123	2	1
Springs, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	26	920	5	31
Springs, under 100 pounds.....	297	3,481	22	91
Computers, 100 to 5,000 pounds....	25	346	.....	13
Computers, under 100 pounds.....	840	3,866	37	103
Persona weighing machines.....	23	1,017	17	24
Prescription scales.....	49	509	5	33
Jewelers' scales.....	6	195	1	3
Weights:				
Avoirdupois.....	517	24,196	.....	19
Apothecary.....	4	5,444	.....	78
Metric.....	18	2,436	.....	17
Troy.....	6	2,140	.....	52
Volumetric measures:				
Vehicle tanks (compartments).....	80	80*		
Liquid measures over 1 gallon.....	14	591	.....	2
Liquid measures.....	74	2,794	.....	4
Fuel baskets.....		8		
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Gasoline pumps.....	46	56	4	1
Milk machines.....		2		
Oil pumps.....	1,389	2,509	94	1
Stops on pumps.....		3,048†		
Gasoline meter systems.....	602	2,203	198	12
Vehicle tank meter systems.....	226	379	14	23
Bulk station meter systems.....	106	162	6	10
Grease measuring devices.....	5	988	5	1

* On 30 trucks, 39,957 gallons of oil used.

† Stops on gasoline, oil and milk devices.

12,064 places of business serviced.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Scaled.	Not Sealed.	Condemned.
Linear measures:				
Yardsticks.....		946		11
Tapes.....		1		
Cloth measuring devices.....		286		1
Leather measuring devices:				
Power machines.....		10		
Hand racks.....		3		
Taximeters.....		2,418	6	28
Miscellaneous.....	1	1		
Totals.....	5,636	68,742	548	870



City of Boston
JUN 3 1947

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR, 1945

Boston, January 2, 1946.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

SIR,—In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1945.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, eighteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector. At the present time, two members of the department are serving with the armed forces of the United States.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation or working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of nine trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; examination of coal as to quality and the weighing of coal when offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Business concerns serviced for sealing of weighing and measuring devices	10,525
Devices tested and sealed	62,846
Fees charged for sealing and adjusting devices	\$18,305.55
Expenditures of the department	\$52,569.80
Food and fuel commodities reweighed	37,046
Inspections and tests of devices after sealing	49,977
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Violations prosecuted in the courts	6
Fines imposed by the courts for violations	\$160

REWEIGHING OF FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

The work of testing and sealing all weighing or measuring devices comes first, because without accurate equipment for weighing or measuring merchandise no one could be expected to deliver accurate weight or measure.

The use of correct weighing and measuring equipment tested and sealed by this department is not in itself, however, any guaranty that correct quantities will be delivered.

The vast majority of the merchants in this city are honest and fair in their dealings with the public. They welcome inspections by this department, they know that after having their weighing or measuring equip-

ment tested and sealed by this department that they are protected against loss arising from incorrect devices.

This department during the year devoted considerable time to the reweighing of goods put up in advance of sale. This work also consisted of reweighing of orders awaiting delivery, and the ordering of merchandise to determine whether charges were made for trays, paper, etc., used in the packages and also to determine that correct weight was received. A list of the weighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food:				
Bread.....	152	152		
Butter.....	3,099	2,564	300	235
Nuts, candy, dried fruits.....	3,148	3,038	10	100
Flour.....	385	90	285	10
Fruits and vegetables.....	4,295	3,879	166	250
Lard, oleomargarine, cheese.....	2,258	2,143	20	95
Sugar.....	1,735	1,670	65	
Meats and poultry.....	11,175	11,071	40	64
Tea and coffee.....	5,250	5,185	10	55
Fish.....	406	306	59	41
Various dry commodities.....	870	768	12	90
Crackers.....	312	312		
Macaroni and spaghetti.....	243	147		96
Cranberries.....	269	255	14	
Liquid commodities.....	11	11		
Bananas.....	14		13	1
Tomatoes, canned.....	68	3	63	2
Various other items of food.....	174	124		50
Fuel:				
Liquid fuels.....	27	23	2	2
Cord wood.....	13	11	2	
Coal, in 25-pound paper bags.....	651	51		600
Coal, in 100-pound lots.....	386	354	6	26
Coal, loads.....	1,211	449	11	751
Ice.....	29	20	1	8
Miscellaneous:				
Barcolene and Betta Kleen.....	731	458	273	
Wet wash.....	20	8	12	
D. D. T. liquid bombs.....	100	55	40	5

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Miscellaneous:				
Test weights, U. S. Government.....	2	2		
Glasses.....	3	3		
Lynotype.....	1	1		
Gauge glasses.....	8	8		
Totals.....	37,046	33,161	1,404	2,481

Found correct, 89.5 per cent; found underweight, 3.8 per cent; found overweight, 6.7 per cent.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above-named dealers and during the year devoted much time to this work with the result that the following sum will be paid into the treasury of the City of Boston. These dealers are required to be licensed annually and in order to secure the various type of licenses must first obtain the approval of this department specifying that all weighing or measuring devices used by them have been tested and sealed. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston. Licenses were issued as follows:

Division of Standards:

City licenses	479 at \$25	\$11,975
Suffolk County licenses	84 at 9	756

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	194 at 12	2,328
Local licenses	134 at 7	952
Ice permit plates	399 at 2	798

Total amount to be deposited with City Collector	\$16,809
--	----------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the amount indicated above received indirectly, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$17,449.95.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$52,569.80.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

After weighing and measuring devices have been tested and sealed, frequent inspections are necessary to make certain that they are kept in the same condition as left at the time the sealing took place. The inspection of containers, the examination of coal and oil as to quality and the inspection of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors as to licenses, etc., and the inspection of food packages for markings comprise this part of our work.

Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Coal yards inspected for quality of coal	569
Coal certificates examined	1,343
Coal weighers inspected for weigher's license	203
Lots of coal estimated and measured in bin	6
Lots of coke estimated and measured in bin	3
Lots of coke examined for quality	4
Food packages inspected for contents and markings, etc.	16,551
Fuel oil deliveries observed	13
Jars of fountain preserves examined for contents and markings	1,742
Pedlers examined for licenses and condition of equip- ment used:	
Fuel and ice	1,175
Wood	4
Fruit and produce	2,516
Shopping bags, razor blades, novelties, etc.	199
Miscellaneous	51
Weighing and measuring devices inspected for seals, accuracy and condition after sealing:	
Oil bottles	8,687
Liquid measures	1,204
Scales	9,806
Vehicle tank meters	104
Bulk station meters	3
Gasoline meters	27
Glass graduates	1,883
Taximeters	304
Oil pumps	28
Massachusetts standard boxes	32
Glass jars	300
Milk bottles	1,750
Milk cans	600
Places visited for the purpose of inspection and tests,	2,471
 Total	 49,977

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year 1945 the department received ninety-nine complaints from citizens, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings sent to the person making the complaint.

At all times we earnestly request the public to call to our attention any violations of weights and measures laws. Frequently cases called to our attention in one section of our city result in investigations in other parts of the city, and when the conditions complained of are corrected all of the consumers of the city benefit.

Six violations were presented to the courts and fines amounting to \$160 were imposed.

Since the severe meat shortage of last spring certain dealers in our city have developed a practice in the sale of merchandise in which there is no statement of weight made at the time of sale. When cases have been presented to the courts, as the result of overcharges made, certain courts have ruled that it is necessary to have a statement of weight to sustain a complaint of short weight.

To correct this condition that has operated to the advantage of a small number of dealers in our city, new legislation has been introduced to the present session of the Legislature, and will, if adopted, enable this department to further protect the consuming public in our city.

CONCLUSION.

The success of the work of the department for the past year is due to the effort on the part of the employees who throughout the year have been faithful in the performance of the work assigned them.

To the employees, the Director of Standards, and to all citizens who have cooperated with the department during the past year, the Sealer extends his sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*

APPENDIX.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	"Not Sealed."	Condemned.
Scales:				
Platforms, over 10,000 pounds.....	15	215	11	30
Platforms, 5,000 to 10,000 pounds...	26	167	.....	11
Platforms, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	948	4,242	98	178
Counters, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	29	321	20	5
Counters, under 100 pounds.....	580	2,497	12	50
Beams, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	3	114	5	
Springs, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	18	745	18	25
Springs, under 100 pounds.....	326	3,163	.....	84
Computing, 100 to 5,000 pounds....	30	250	.....	6
Computing, under 100 pounds.....	925	3,338	.....	139
Personal weigher (slot).....	31	919	4	27
Prescription.....	42	482	5	22
Jewelers'.....	1	204	1	
Weights:				
Avoirdupois.....	444	23,239	.....	3
Apothecary.....	17	5,077	.....	134
Metric.....	10	2,486	.....	50
Troy.....	23	2,308	.....	34
Volumetric measures:				
Vehicle tanks (compartments).....	70*	70*		
Liquid measures, over 1 gallon.....		522		
Liquid measures.....		1,958		7
Fuel baskets.....		6		
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Gasoline pumps.....		10		
Alcohol pump.....		1		
Turpentine pump.....		1		
Oil pumps.....		1,898	12	
Stops on pumps.....		2,362†		
Gasoline meter systems.....	445	1,698	85	16
Vehicle tank meter systems.....	273	529	8	26

* On twenty-one trucks, 46,136-gallon capacity.

† Stops on gasoline and oil pumps.

Places of business serviced, 10,525.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.—*Concluded.*

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	"Not Sealed."	Condemned.
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Bulk station meter systems.....	91	198	11	14
Grease measuring devices.....	2	703	5	4
Linear measures:				
Yardsticks.....		837		5
Cloth measuring devices.....		285		
Leather measuring devices:				
Power machines.....		10		1
Hand racks.....		2		
Taximeters.....		1,989		18
Totals.....	4,349	62,846	295	889



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Boston, January 16, 1952.

HON. JOHN B. HYNES,
Mayor of Boston.

DEAR SIR:

In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1951.

In this report I have incorporated an outline of the laws under which it functions and an explanation of the department's activities and accomplishments.

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98, and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are used for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

*Boston City Messenger
Sept 12, 1952*

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the above class of dealers. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston. Licenses were issued as follows:

Director of Standards:

City of Boston licenses	235 at \$25	\$5,875
County of Suffolk licenses	140 at 9	1,260

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	235 at 12	3,540
Outside licenses	87 at 7	609
Ice permits	252 at 2	504

Total		<u>\$11,788</u>
-----------------	--	-----------------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

The activity of this department in the enforcement of the hawker and pedler laws was the main factor in producing the above revenue that is received by the City Collector. The only revenue received directly by the department is for the testing and sealing of weighing and measuring devices. Fees were received as follows:

For the testing and sealing of devices	\$19,230 00
For the adjusting of devices	1,676 85

Total amount collected	<u>\$20,906 85</u>
----------------------------------	--------------------

Budget allowance	\$78,392 00
----------------------------	-------------

During the year the services of the department were extended to 12,589 business concerns, for the testing and sealing of the following kinds of equipment:

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	Not Sealed.	Condemned.
Scales.....	2,187	18,775	192	606
Weights.....	433	32,780	.....	89
Capacity measures.....	23	1,652	16	
Automatic liquid measuring devices....	523	5,949	112	23
Taximeters.....		2,338	.....	46
Leather measuring machines.....		14	2	
Linear devices.....		241	7	
Yard sticks.....		1,245	.....	16
Totals.....	3,166	62,994	339	780

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

After weighing and measuring devices are sealed, frequent inspections of them are made to make certain that they are maintained in the same condition as they were left at the time of sealing. In certain instances the law prescribes the size, shape and dimensions of containers. The inspection of these containers, the examination of coal as to quality and the inspection of pedlars and other related items form this branch of our work. A summary follows:

Places visited for inspection and tests	4,654
Complaints investigated	114
Inspections relating to fuel of all types	5,218
Inspections relating to food and food packages	18,215
Inspection of licenses, badges, etc., of pedlars	12,090
Inspections relating to all types of weighing and measuring equipment	34,650
Totals	<u>74,941</u>

REWEIGHINGS OF FOOD AND FUEL.

The vast majority of the merchants in this city are honest and fair in their dealings with the public. They welcome inspections by this department, they know that after having their weighing or measuring devices tested and sealed by this department they are protected against loss arising from incorrect devices. To protect consumers of this city from errors caused by inexperienced help and haste in the packaging of merchandise, this department during the past year devoted considerable time to the reweighing of goods put up in advance of sale. This work consisted of reweighing of orders awaiting delivery, and the ordering of merchandise to determine whether charges were made for trays, paper, etc., used in the packages; merchandise was also reweighed to determine that correct weight was received. The following work was performed:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food.....	23,569	17,726	2,078	3,765
Fuel.....	176	146	9	21
Miscellaneous.....	296	220	36	40
Totals.....	24,028	18,080	2,122	3,826

COMPLAINTS.

During the year the department received 114 complaints, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings sent to the person making the complaint.

This department needs the active support of the purchasing public in reporting violations of weights and measures laws. Their cooperation is earnestly requested; they can greatly aid by reporting any irregularity to this department.

CONCLUSION.

The success of the department for the past year is due to the effort on the part of the employees who throughout the year have been faithful in the performance of the work assigned them.

To the employees, to his Honor Mayor Hynes, the Director of Standards and his inspectors and to all citizens who have in any way cooperated with the department during the past year to aid us in protecting the consumers of this city the Sealer extends his sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY,
Sealer of Weights and Measures.

[DOCUMENT 35 — 1949.]



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1948

BOSTON, JANUARY 18, 1949.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

DEAR SIR:

In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1948.

In this report I have incorporated an outline of the present organization, the laws under which it functions, and an explanation of the department's activities and accomplishments.

ORGANIZATION.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of the Sealer, a chief clerk, a chief deputy sealer, sixteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation of working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of ten trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed, with all fees collected, are submitted by the employees.

MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF BOSTON

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Room 105, City Hall Annex, Boston.

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting, or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares, or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers, and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape, and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above class of dealers. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston.

Licenses were issued as follows:

Director of Standards:

City of Boston licenses . . .	334 at \$25	\$8,350
County of Suffolk licenses . . .	113 at 9	1,017

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	362 at 12	4,344
Outside licenses	153 at 7	1,071
Ice permits	370 at 2	740

Total		<u>\$15,522</u>
-----------------	--	-----------------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

The activity of this department in the enforcement of the hawker and pedler laws was the main factor in producing the above revenue that is received by the City Collector. The only revenue received by the department is for the testing and sealing of devices. Fees were received as follows:

For the testing and sealing of devices	\$21,526 80
For the adjusting of devices	1,707 45
Total amount collected	\$23,234 25
The budget expenditures for the year were	\$68,757 87

During the year the services of the department were extended to 14,962 business concerns, for the testing and sealing of devices. The following equipment was inspected:

DEVICES.	Adjusted	Sealed.	Not Sealed.	Condemned.
Scales.....	2,515	18,890	140	595
Weights.....	310	33,668	.....	130
Volumetric measures.....	40	2,702	.....	4
Automatic liquid measuring devices...	622	7,397	27	52
Linear measures.....	.....	1,418	.....	4-1
Leather measuring devices.....	.....	11	.....	1
Taximeters.....	.....	4,246	.....	15
Miscellaneous.....	.....	18	.....	.....
Totals.....	3,487	68,350	167	802
Total devices examined.....	.....	.....	69,319	100

Devices tested and sealed	68,350	98.6%
Devices condemned for repairs	802	1.2%
Devices tagged not sealed	167	.2%
Totals	69,319	100%

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

This is a branch of our work for which no income is received, and is performed for the protection of the public. It includes the testing and inspection of devices after sealing, food packages for markings, containers, licenses, badges, etc., of pedlers.

Places visited for the purpose of inspection and test	2,326
Complaints investigated	123
Oil bottles inspected	11,269
Devices inspected after test	14,662
Inspections relating to fuel	2,862
Hawker and pedler inspections	4,583
Total inspections	35,825

REWEIGHINGS MADE OF FOOD AND FUEL.

The aim and purpose of the department is the protection of the entire public in all transactions that involve quantity determination. It is the duty of the department to see that correct weight or measure is received by the purchaser, and fraud, deceit, carelessness, indifference, and ignorance are, so far as it is humanly possible, at least minimized if not entirely eliminated. Following is a brief summary of reweighings made during the year for the protection of consumers in this city.

COMMODITY.	Total.	Under.	Over.	Correct.
Food.....	14,705	636	2,281	11,788
Fuel.....	3,398	77	1,345	1,976
Miscellaneous.....	182	4	18	160
Totals.....	18,285	717	3,644	13,924

Found underweight, 3.9 per cent; found overweight, 20 per cent; found correct, 76.1 per cent.

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year the department received 123 complaints, each of which was investigated, with a report of our findings sent to the person making the complaint when possible. At all times we earnestly request the public to call to our attention any violations of weights and measures laws. During the year one violation was presented to the court, and the defendant was found guilty.

CONCLUSION.

The success of the work of the department for the past year is due to the effort on the part of the employees who throughout the year have been faithful in the performance of the work assigned them.

I also wish to acknowledge the cooperation and support of his Honor Mayor Curley, as shown in his approval of my recommendations for new equipment. During the year four new trucks were placed in service.

To the employees, to his Honor Mayor Curley, to the Director of Standards and his inspectors, and to all citizens who have cooperated with the department during the past year the Sealer extends his sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. McCARTHY, *Sealer*.

[DOCUMENT 35 — 1948.]



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1947

Boston, January 15, 1948.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

DEAR SIR:

In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1947.

ORGANIZATION.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, a chief deputy sealer, sixteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation of working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of ten trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

*Boston City Messenger Report
Sept 1, 1948*

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

REWEIGHINGS MADE OF FOOD AND FUEL.

The work of testing and sealing weighing and measuring devices comes first because without accurate equipment for weighing or measuring merchandise no one could be expected to deliver accurate weight or measure. This work would prove of small value if subsequent effort was not made to determine how these devices were being used. Orders made up and awaiting delivery; fuel in transit and the ordering of goods by our deputies with the subsequent reweighing to determine the accuracy, form this branch of our work.

A list of the weighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Under.	Over.	Correct.
Food.....	23,955	1,473	3,429	19,053
Fuel.....	1,889	90	512	1,287
Miscellaneous.....	14	.....	.....	14
Totals.....	25,858	1,563	3,941	20,354

Found correct, 78.7 per cent; found underweight, 6.0 per cent; found overweight, 15.3 per cent.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above class of dealers. Licenses and permits are issued by the

Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston.

Licenses were issued as follows:

Divisions of Standards:

City of Boston licenses	418 at \$25	\$10,450
County of Suffolk licenses	109 at 9	981

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	292 at 12	3,504
Outside licenses	197 at 7	1,379
Ice permits	423 at 2	846

Total		<u>\$17,160</u>
-----------------	--	-----------------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the above amount that is received as the result of the enforcement of the above law by this department and paid to the City Collector, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$21,333.30.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$66,134.45.

The services of the department were extended to 13,794 business concerns and the following equipment was tested:

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	Not Sealed.	Condemned.
Scales.....	2,439	19,794	95	558
Weights.....	509	34,711	.....	192
Volumetric measures.....	139	3,129	.....	5
Automatic liquid measuring devices...	1,224	9,481	38	64
Linear measures.....	.....	1,463	.....	18
Leather measuring devices.....	.....	12	.....	.....
Taximeters.....	.....	3,130	.....	10
Miscellaneous.....	.....	35	.....	.....
Totals.....	4,291	71,755	133	847

Total devices examined.....	72,735
-----------------------------	--------

Devices tested and sealed	71,755	98.65%
Devices condemned for repairs	847	1.16%
Devices tagged not sealed	133	.19%
Total	72,735	100%
Found necessary to adjust before sealing .	4,291	5.9%

It is interesting to note that during the year the department received 1,225 requests to test and seal new equipment before being placed in service. This is a further indication that the vast majority of the business concerns are ready and willing to comply with the General Laws that require that all new equipment be tested and sealed before being placed in service.

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year the department received 98 complaints, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings made to the person making the complaint.

It is the duty of this department to protect the entire public which it serves in all matters involving the commercial determination of quantity, to see to it that whenever merchandise or service is bought or sold by weight or measure, a just weight or measure is delivered and that fraud, carelessness and ignorance are eliminated.

At all times we earnestly request the public to call to our attention any violations of weights and measures laws.

During the year four violations were presented to the courts and the defendants were found guilty.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

After weighing and measuring devices are sealed, frequent inspections of them are made to make certain that they are maintained in the same condition as they were left at the time of sealing. In certain instances the law prescribes the size, shape and dimensions of containers. The inspection of these containers, the examination of coal as to quality and the inspection of hawkers and peddlers and other related items form this branch of our work.

A summary follows:

Places visited to investigate complaints received	98
Inspections made relating to fuel	2,986
Inspections relating to food and food containers	24,263
Inspections of weighing and measuring devices after sealing	19,171
Inspections of hawkers and pedlers	6,226
Total	<u>52,744</u>

CONCLUSION.

In concluding the report of the department the Sealer extends his sincerest thanks to all public-spirited citizens who have in any way cooperated with the department during the year. I desire to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the employees for the loyalty they have expressed in the performance of all of the work to which they have been assigned.

I also wish to acknowledge the cooperation and support of his Honor Mayor Curley as shown in his approval of my recommendations for new equipment. During the past year four new trucks were placed in service and the coming year will see further replacements that will when received result in greater efficiency in the department.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1946

BOSTON, January 13, 1947.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

SIR,— In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1946.

ORGANIZATION.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, eighteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation of working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of nine trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

*Boston City Manager's Report
January 13, 1948*

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; the examination of coal as to quality, and the weighing of coal offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Business concerns serviced for sealing of weighing and measuring devices	13,223
Devices tested and sealed	70,505
Fees collected for sealing and adjusting devices, ...	\$21,007.20
Expenditures of the department	61,171.34
Food and fuel commodities reweighed	21,532
Inspections and tests of devices after sealing	52,504
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Violations prosecuted in the courts	26
Fines imposed by the courts for violations	750

REWEIGHING OF FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER
COMMODITIES.

Most dealers are honest; they are aware that a reputation for fair and honest dealings can only be acquired by the dealer who serves his customers fairly and honestly.

Carelessness causes many errors. Dealers may be doing all they possibly can to give you honest weight and measure but a careless employee is often responsible for the incorrect weight or measure received by the consumer.

To protect the consumers of this city against carelessness or dishonest dealers and employees of this de-

partment during the past year devoted considerable time to reweighing of food and fuel and other commodities.

A list of the reweighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food:				
Bread.....	4,793	4,456	150	187
Butter—lard.....	693	618	61	14
Confectionery.....	1,758	1,610	60	88
Dry commodities.....	387	341	.....	46
Flour—sugar.....	230	96	108	26
Fruits—vegetables—potatoes.....	5,557	4,420	311	826
Meats—provisions—poultry.....	2,435	2,380	37	18
Miscellaneous.....	2,040	1,472	148	420
Tea—coffee.....	1,456	1,208	76	172
Fish.....	41	39	2	
Cooking oils.....	175	175		
Fuel:				
Coke in paper bags.....	3	.....	1	2
Coal in paper bags.....	570	495	20	55
Coal—loads in transit.....	670	98	8	564
Coal in 100-pound bags.....	102	58	23	21
Kindling wood in paper bags.....	50	45	5	
Liquid—heating fuels.....	25	22	2	1
Cordwood and firewood.....	3	2	1	
Kindling wood.....	19	19		
Barge loads of coal.....	2	1	1	
Coke in 100-pound bags.....	7	.....	7	
Miscellaneous:				
Yarn.....	364	50	278	36
Sand and gravel.....	2	1	1	
Wax.....	13	.....	13	
Laundry.....	7	7		
Wool waste.....	4	1	3	
Metal.....	13	13		
Holly beads.....	70	.....	70	
Totals:.....	21,489	17,640	1,392	2,476

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year 1946 the department received 99 complaints from citizens, each one being investigated,

and when possible a report of our finding sent to the person making the complaint.

This department needs the active support of the purchasing public in reporting violations of weights and measures laws.

In addition to the investigation of complaints made to the department investigations on our own initiative were made, with the result that 26 violations were presented to the courts and fines amounting to \$750 were imposed.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

This is a branch of our work for which no income is received. It includes the testing and inspection of devices after sealing, food packages for markings, containers, licenses, badges, etc., of pedlers.

Places of business visited for purpose of inspection	2,135
Skeins of yarn for marking	234
Ice cream packages inspected for capacity	47
Weighers of coal and goods licenses inspected	349
Quantity of coal estimated in bin	6
Coke inspected for quality	1
Coal yards inspected for quality of coal	340
Pedlers' licenses inspected	3,980
Coal certificates examined for correctness	910
Loaves of bread inspected for correct markings	4,793
Food in package form inspected for correct markings, ...	12,506
Coal in 25-pound paper bags for correct markings	570
Kindling wood in paper bags for correct markings	125
Wholesale milk cans for capacity indicators	1,150
Transient vendors inspected	5
Clinical thermometers for seal	174
Pedlers' scales for seals, location, etc.	2,322
Ice scales for seals	1,192
Ice cream containers for markings	400
Lubricating oil jars for seals	11,303
Glass graduates for seals	224
Liquid measures for seals	1,064
Vehicle tank meters for seals	73
Scales inspected for seals, location, etc.	6,805
Miscellaneous inspections	141
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Climax baskets for capacity	37
U. S. hampers for capacity	326
Massachusetts standard boxes for capacity	193
Cranberry containers for capacity	300
Apple boxes for capacity	420
Total	<u>52,504</u>

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above class of dealers. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston.

Licenses were issued as follows:

Division of Standards:

City of Boston licenses	412 at \$25	\$10,300
County of Suffolk licenses	98 at 9	882

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	232 at 12	2,784
Outside licenses	183 at 7	1,281
Ice permits	441 at 2	882

Total		<u>\$16,129</u>
-----------------	--	-----------------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the above amount that is received as the result of the enforcement of the above law by this department and paid to the City Collector, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$21,007.20.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$61,171.34.

Appended is a table of the testing, adjusting and sealing and condemning of the various devices in use in the City of Boston. The services of the department were extended to 13,223 business concerns.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report I wish to extend my thanks to all those who, in any way, brought to our attention any violation of the laws or who, in any measure, cooperated with the department during the year 1946.

To the staff assisting me in this important work I share any credit for the satisfactory way in which it was carried on.

I also wish to acknowledge the cooperation and support of his Honor Mayor Curley as shown in his approval of my recommendations for new equipment, that will when received result in greater efficiency in the department.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*

APPENDIX.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Scaled.	Tagged "Not in Use."	Condemned.
Scales:				
Platform, over 10,000 pounds.....	22	168	5	12
Platform, 5,000 to 10,000 pounds.....	23	172	.....	5
Platform, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	396	4,496	66	141
Counter, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	63	559	37	9
Counter, under 100 pounds.....	543	3,077	15	61
Beam, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	7	150	4	1
Beam, under 100 pounds.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Spring, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	37	947	3	39
Spring, under 100 pounds.....	315	3,919	21	94
Computing, 100 to 5,000 pounds....	7	99	.....	4
Computing, under 100 pounds.....	931	4,355	.....	138
Personal weigher (slot).....	34	1,078	21	22
Prescription.....	36	499	2	16
Jewelers'.....	22	223	1	2
Weights:				
Avoirdupois.....	209	24,970	.....	20
Apothecary.....	48	5,276	.....	133
Metric.....	10	2,852	.....	7
Troy.....	16	2,388	.....	12
Volumetric measures:				
Vehicle tank (compartments).....	105*	105	.....	.....
Liquid measures, over 1 gallon.....	15	701	.....	2
Liquid measures.....	.....	2,205	.....	3
Fuel baskets.....	.....	9	.....	2
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Gasoline pumps.....	2	16	.....	.....
Turpentine pumps.....	3	14	.....	.....
Linseed oil — alcohol pumps.....	.....	8	.....	.....
Oil pumps.....	243	2,170	22	22
Stops on pumps.....	†	2,729	.....	.....
Gasoline meter systems.....	160	2,077	32	8
Vehicle tank meter systems.....	248	509	2	34
Bulk station meter systems.....	107	168	4	7
Grease measuring devices.....	.....	901	.....	.....

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.— *Concluded.*

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	Tagged "Not in Use."	Condemned.
Linear measures:				
Yard sticks.....		917		
Cloth measuring devices.....		271		3
Leather measuring devices:				
Power machines.....		9		1
Hand racks.....		3		
Taximeters.....		2,466		20
Miscellaneous.....	3	3		
Totals.....	4,105	70,505	235	1,118

* On 39 trucks, 105 compartments, capacity 82,170 gallons.

† On 2,203 pumps.

13,223 places of business serviced.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR, 1945

Boston, January 2, 1946.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

SIR,— In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1945.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, eighteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector. At the present time, two members of the department are serving with the armed forces of the United States.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation or working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of nine trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

Boston City Messenger

Feb 4 1946

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; examination of coal as to quality and the weighing of coal when offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Business concerns serviced for sealing of weighing and measuring devices	10,525
Devices tested and sealed	62,846
Fees charged for sealing and adjusting devices	\$18,305.55
Expenditures of the department	\$52,569.80
Food and fuel commodities reweighed	37,046
Inspections and tests of devices after sealing	49,977
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Violations prosecuted in the courts	6
Fines imposed by the courts for violations	\$160

REWEIGHING OF FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

The work of testing and sealing all weighing or measuring devices comes first, because without accurate equipment for weighing or measuring merchandise no one could be expected to deliver accurate weight or measure.

The use of correct weighing and measuring equipment tested and sealed by this department is not in itself, however, any guaranty that correct quantities will be delivered.

The vast majority of the merchants in this city are honest and fair in their dealings with the public. They welcome inspections by this department, they know that after having their weighing or measuring equip-

ment tested and sealed by this department that they are protected against loss arising from incorrect devices.

This department during the year devoted considerable time to the reweighing of goods put up in advance of sale. This work also consisted of reweighing of orders awaiting delivery, and the ordering of merchandise to determine whether charges were made for trays, paper, etc., used in the packages and also to determine that correct weight was received. A list of the weighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food:				
Bread.....	152	152		
Butter.....	3,099	2,564	300	235
Nuts, candy, dried fruits.....	3,148	3,038	10	100
Flour.....	385	90	285	10
Fruits and vegetables.....	4,295	3,879	166	250
Lard, oleomargarine, cheese.....	2,258	2,143	20	95
Sugar.....	1,735	1,670	65	
Meats and poultry.....	11,175	11,071	40	64
Tea and coffee.....	5,250	5,185	10	55
Fish.....	406	306	59	41
Various dry commodities.....	870	768	12	90
Crackers.....	312	312		
Macaroni and spaghetti.....	243	147		96
Cranberries.....	269	255	14	
Liquid commodities.....	11	11		
Bananas.....	14		13	1
Tomatoes, canned.....	68	3	63	2
Various other items of food.....	174	124		50
Fuel:				
Liquid fuels.....	27	23	2	2
Cord wood.....	13	11	2	
Coal, in 25-pound paper bags.....	651	51		600
Coal, in 100-pound lots.....	386	354	6	26
Coal, loads.....	1,211	449	11	751
Ice.....	29	20	1	8
Miscellaneous:				
Barcolene and Betta Kleen.....	731	458	273	
Wet wash.....	20	8	12	
D. D. T. liquid bombs.....	100	55	40	5

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Miscellaneous:				
Test weights, U. S. Government	2	2		
Glasses	3	3		
Lynotype	1	1		
Gauge glasses	8	8		
Totals	37,046	33,161	1,404	2,481

Found correct, 89.5 per cent; found underweight, 3.8 per cent; found overweight, 6.7 per cent.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above-named dealers and during the year devoted much time to this work with the result that the following sum will be paid into the treasury of the City of Boston. These dealers are required to be licensed annually and in order to secure the various type of licenses must first obtain the approval of this department specifying that all weighing or measuring devices used by them have been tested and sealed. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston. Licenses were issued as follows:

Division of Standards:

City licenses	479 at \$25	\$11,975
Suffolk County licenses	84 at 9	756

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	194 at 12	2,328
Local licenses	134 at 7	952
Ice permit plates	399 at 2	798

Total amount to be deposited with City Collector	\$16,809
--	----------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the amount indicated above received indirectly, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$17,449.95.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$52,569.80.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

After weighing and measuring devices have been tested and sealed, frequent inspections are necessary to make certain that they are kept in the same condition as left at the time the sealing took place. The inspection of containers, the examination of coal and oil as to quality and the inspection of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors as to licenses, etc., and the inspection of food packages for markings comprise this part of our work.

Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Coal yards inspected for quality of coal	569
Coal certificates examined	1,343
Coal weighers inspected for weigher's license	203
Lots of coal estimated and measured in bin	6
Lots of coke estimated and measured in bin	3
Lots of coke examined for quality	4
Food packages inspected for contents and markings, etc.	16,551
Fuel oil deliveries observed	13
Jars of fountain preserves examined for contents and markings	1,742
Pedlers examined for licenses and condition of equip- ment used:	
Fuel and ice	1,175
Wood	4
Fruit and produce	2,516
Shopping bags, razor blades, novelties, etc.	199
Miscellaneous	51
Weighing and measuring devices inspected for seals, accuracy and condition after sealing:	
Oil bottles	8,687
Liquid measures	1,204
Scales	9,806
Vehicle tank meters	104
Bulk station meters	3
Gasoline meters	27
Glass graduates	1,883
Taximeters	304
Oil pumps	28
Massachusetts standard boxes	32
Glass jars	300
Milk bottles	1,750
Milk cans	600
Places visited for the purpose of inspection and tests,	2,471
 Total	 <u>49,977</u>

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year 1945 the department received ninety-nine complaints from citizens, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings sent to the person making the complaint.

At all times we earnestly request the public to call to our attention any violations of weights and measures laws. Frequently cases called to our attention in one section of our city result in investigations in other parts of the city, and when the conditions complained of are corrected all of the consumers of the city benefit.

Six violations were presented to the courts and fines amounting to \$160 were imposed.

Since the severe meat shortage of last spring certain dealers in our city have developed a practice in the sale of merchandise in which there is no statement of weight made at the time of sale. When cases have been presented to the courts, as the result of overcharges made, certain courts have ruled that it is necessary to have a statement of weight to sustain a complaint of short weight.

To correct this condition that has operated to the advantage of a small number of dealers in our city, new legislation has been introduced to the present session of the Legislature, and will, if adopted, enable this department to further protect the consuming public in our city.

CONCLUSION.

The success of the work of the department for the past year is due to the effort on the part of the employees who throughout the year have been faithful in the performance of the work assigned them.

To the employees, the Director of Standards, and to all citizens who have cooperated with the department during the past year, the Sealer extends his sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*

APPENDIX.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	"Not Sealed."	Condemned.
Scales:				
Platforms, over 10,000 pounds.....	15	215	11	30
Platforms, 5,000 to 10,000 pounds...	26	167	.....	11
Platforms, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	948	4,242	98	178
Counters, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	29	321	20	5
Counters, under 100 pounds.....	580	2,497	12	50
Beams, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	3	114	5	
Springs, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	18	745	18	25
Springs, under 100 pounds.....	326	3,163	.....	84
Computing, 100 to 5,000 pounds....	30	250	.....	6
Computing, under 100 pounds.....	925	3,338	.....	139
Personal weigher (slot).....	31	919	4	27
Prescription.....	42	482	5	22
Jewelers'.....	1	204	1	
Weights:				
Avoirdupois.....	444	23,239	.....	3
Apothecary.....	17	5,077	.....	134
Metric.....	10	2,486	.....	50
Troy.....	23	2,308	.....	34
Volumetric measures:				
Vehicle tanks (compartments).....	70*	70*		
Liquid measures, over 1 gallon.....		522		
Liquid measures.....		1,958	.....	7
Fuel baskets.....		6		
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Gasoline pumps.....		10		
Alcohol pump.....		1		
Turpentine pump.....		1		
Oil pumps.....		1,898	12	
Stops on pumps.....		2,362†		
Gasoline meter systems.....	445	1,698	85	16
Vehicle tank meter systems.....	273	529	8	26

* On twenty-one trucks, 46,136-gallon capacity.

† Stops on gasoline and oil pumps.

Places of business serviced, 10,525.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.—*Concluded.*

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	"Not Sealed."	Condemned.
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Bulk station meter systems.....	91	198	11	14
Grease measuring devices.....	2	703	5	4
Linear measures:				
Yardsticks.....		837	.....	5
Cloth measuring devices.....		285		
Leather measuring devices:				
Power machines.....		10	.....	1
Hand racks.....		2		
Taximeters.....		1,989	.....	18
Totals.....	4,349	62,846	295	889



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR, 1945

Boston, January 2, 1946.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of Boston.

SIR,— In compliance with the requirements of the Revised Ordinances, I have the honor to submit the annual report of the Weights and Measures Department for the year 1945.

The department was established by ordinance in 1890. The present force consists of a Sealer, a chief clerk, eighteen deputy sealers and a coal inspector. At the present time, two members of the department are serving with the armed forces of the United States.

The work performed is both mechanical and supervisory and requires the transportation or working standards of weights and measures. A fleet of nine trucks is in daily use. Daily reports of all work performed with all fees collected are submitted by the employees.

The headquarters of the department, consisting of an office and work room, in which are kept the primary standards issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, are located in Rooms 105, 106 and 107 of the City Hall Annex, Boston.

Boston City Messenger
Feb 4, 1947

GENERAL DUTIES.

The general duties of the Sealer and the deputies are set forth in the General Laws of Massachusetts, chapters 94, 98 and 101. Briefly, they state the requirements regarding the sealing, adjusting or condemning of all weighing or measuring devices that are in use for the buying or selling of goods, wares or merchandise, for public weighing or for hire or reward. Sealers are also authorized to enforce the laws pertaining to the giving of false weight or measure; the laws relative to the licensing of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors; examination of coal as to quality and the weighing of coal when offered for sale; the inspection of containers, the size, shape and dimensions of which are established by law; the investigation of complaints and the prosecution of violations found when the evidence warrants such action.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Business concerns serviced for sealing of weighing and measuring devices	10,525
Devices tested and sealed	62,846
Fees charged for sealing and adjusting devices	\$18,305.55
Expenditures of the department	\$52,569.80
Food and fuel commodities reweighed	37,046
Inspections and tests of devices after sealing	49,977
Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Violations prosecuted in the courts	6
Fines imposed by the courts for violations	\$160

REWEIGHING OF FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

The work of testing and sealing all weighing or measuring devices comes first, because without accurate equipment for weighing or measuring merchandise no one could be expected to deliver accurate weight or measure.

The use of correct weighing and measuring equipment tested and sealed by this department is not in itself, however, any guaranty that correct quantities will be delivered.

The vast majority of the merchants in this city are honest and fair in their dealings with the public. They welcome inspections by this department, they know that after having their weighing or measuring equip-

ment tested and sealed by this department that they are protected against loss arising from incorrect devices.

This department during the year devoted considerable time to the reweighing of goods put up in advance of sale. This work also consisted of reweighing of orders awaiting delivery, and the ordering of merchandise to determine whether charges were made for trays, paper, etc., used in the packages and also to determine that correct weight was received. A list of the weighings made follows:

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Food:				
Bread.....	152	152		
Butter.....	3,099	2,564	300	235
Nuts, candy, dried fruits.....	3,148	3,038	10	100
Flour.....	385	90	285	10
Fruits and vegetables.....	4,295	3,879	166	250
Lard, oleomargarine, cheese.....	2,258	2,143	20	95
Sugar.....	1,735	1,670	65	
Meats and poultry.....	11,175	11,071	40	64
Tea and coffee.....	5,250	5,185	10	55
Fish.....	406	306	59	41
Various dry commodities.....	870	768	12	90
Crackers.....	312	312		
Macaroni and spaghetti.....	243	147	.....	96
Cranberries.....	269	255	14	
Liquid commodities.....	11	11		
Bananas.....	14	.....	13	1
Tomatoes, canned.....	68	3	63	2
Various other items of food.....	174	124	.....	50
Fuel:				
Liquid fuels.....	27	23	2	2
Cord wood.....	13	11	2	
Coal, in 25-pound paper bags.....	651	51	.....	600
Coal, in 100-pound lots.....	386	354	6	26
Coal, loads.....	1,211	449	11	751
Ice.....	29	20	1	8
Miscellaneous:				
Barcolene and Betta Kleen.....	731	458	273	
Wet wash.....	20	8	12	
D. D. T. liquid bombs.....	100	55	40	5

COMMODITIES.	Total.	Correct.	Under.	Over.
Miscellaneous:				
Test weights, U. S. Government.....	2	2		
Glasses.....	3	3		
Lynotype.....	1	1		
Gauge glasses.....	8	8		
Totals.....	37,046	33,161	1,404	2,481

Found correct, 89.5 per cent; found underweight, 3.8 per cent; found overweight, 6.7 per cent.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE HAWKER AND PEDLER LAW.

The department is charged with the enforcement of all laws relative to the licensing of the above-named dealers and during the year devoted much time to this work with the result that the following sum will be paid into the treasury of the City of Boston. These dealers are required to be licensed annually and in order to secure the various type of licenses must first obtain the approval of this department specifying that all weighing or measuring devices used by them have been tested and sealed. Licenses and permits are issued by the Health Commissioner of the City of Boston and the Director of Standards at Room 194, State House, Boston. Licenses were issued as follows:

Division of Standards:

City licenses	479 at \$25	\$11,975
Suffolk County licenses	84 at 9	756

Health Commissioner:

Market licenses	194 at 12	2,328
Local licenses	134 at 7	952
Ice permit plates	399 at 2	798

Total amount to be deposited with City Collector	<u>\$16,809</u>
--	-----------------

INCOME AND EXPENSE.

In addition to the amount indicated above received indirectly, the department received in fees for the testing and sealing and adjusting of weighing and measuring equipment \$17,449.95.

The budget expenditures for the year totaled \$52,569.80.

INSPECTIONS AND TESTS.

After weighing and measuring devices have been tested and sealed, frequent inspections are necessary to make certain that they are kept in the same condition as left at the time the sealing took place. The inspection of containers, the examination of coal and oil as to quality and the inspection of hawkers, pedlers and transient vendors as to licenses, etc., and the inspection of food packages for markings comprise this part of our work.

Complaints investigated and adjusted	99
Coal yards inspected for quality of coal	569
Coal certificates examined	1,343
Coal weighers inspected for weigher's license	203
Lots of coal estimated and measured in bin	6
Lots of coke estimated and measured in bin	3
Lots of coke examined for quality	4
Food packages inspected for contents and markings, etc.	16,551
Fuel oil deliveries observed	13
Jars of fountain preserves examined for contents and markings	1,742
Pedlers examined for licenses and condition of equip- ment used:	
Fuel and ice	1,175
Wood	4
Fruit and produce	2,516
Shopping bags, razor blades, novelties, etc.	199
Miscellaneous	51
Weighing and measuring devices inspected for seals, accuracy and condition after sealing:	
Oil bottles	8,687
Liquid measures	1,204
Scales	9,806
Vehicle tank meters	104
Bulk station meters	3
Gasoline meters	27
Glass graduates	1,883
Taximeters	304
Oil pumps	28
Massachusetts standard boxes	32
Glass jars	300
Milk bottles	1,750
Milk cans	600
Places visited for the purpose of inspection and tests,	2,471
 Total	 <u>49,977</u>

COMPLAINTS AND PROSECUTIONS.

During the year 1945 the department received ninety-nine complaints from citizens, each one being investigated, and when possible a report of our findings sent to the person making the complaint.

At all times we earnestly request the public to call to our attention any violations of weights and measures laws. Frequently cases called to our attention in one section of our city result in investigations in other parts of the city, and when the conditions complained of are corrected all of the consumers of the city benefit.

Six violations were presented to the courts and fines amounting to \$160 were imposed.

Since the severe meat shortage of last spring certain dealers in our city have developed a practice in the sale of merchandise in which there is no statement of weight made at the time of sale. When cases have been presented to the courts, as the result of overcharges made, certain courts have ruled that it is necessary to have a statement of weight to sustain a complaint of short weight.

To correct this condition that has operated to the advantage of a small number of dealers in our city, new legislation has been introduced to the present session of the Legislature, and will, if adopted, enable this department to further protect the consuming public in our city.

CONCLUSION.

The success of the work of the department for the past year is due to the effort on the part of the employees who throughout the year have been faithful in the performance of the work assigned them.

To the employees, the Director of Standards, and to all citizens who have cooperated with the department during the past year, the Sealer extends his sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. MCCARTHY, *Sealer.*

APPENDIX.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	"Not Sealed."	Condemned.
Scales:				
Platforms, over 10,000 pounds.....	15	215	11	30
Platforms, 5,000 to 10,000 pounds...	26	167	.....	11
Platforms, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	948	4,242	98	178
Counters, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	29	321	20	5
Counters, under 100 pounds.....	580	2,497	12	50
Beams, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	3	114	5	
Springs, 100 to 5,000 pounds.....	18	745	18	25
Springs, under 100 pounds.....	326	3,163	.....	84
Computing, 100 to 5,000 pounds...	30	250	.....	6
Computing, under 100 pounds.....	925	3,338	.....	139
Personal weigher (slot).....	31	919	4	27
Prescription.....	42	482	5	22
Jewelers'.....	1	204	1	
Weights:				
Avoirdupois.....	444	23,239	.....	3
Apothecary.....	17	5,077	.....	134
Metric.....	10	2,486	.....	50
Troy.....	23	2,308	.....	34
Volumetric measures:				
Vehicle tanks (compartments).....	70*	70*		
Liquid measures, over 1 gallon.....		522		
Liquid measures.....		1,958	.....	7
Fuel baskets.....		6		
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Gasoline pumps.....		10		
Alcohol pump.....		1		
Turpentine pump.....		1		
Oil pumps.....		1,898	12	
Stops on pumps.....		2,362†		
Gasoline meter systems.....	445	1,698	85	16
Vehicle tank meter systems.....	273	529	8	26

* On twenty-one trucks, 46,136-gallon capacity.

† Stops on gasoline and oil pumps.

Places of business serviced, 10,525.

TESTING OF WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICES.—*Concluded.*

DEVICES.	Adjusted.	Sealed.	"Not Sealed."	Condemned.
Automatic liquid measuring devices:				
Bulk station meter systems.....	91	198	11	14
Grease measuring devices:.....	2	703	5	4
Linear measures:				
Yardsticks.....		837		5
Cloth measuring devices.....		285		
Leather measuring devices:				
Power machines.....		10		1
Hand racks.....		2		
Taximeters.....		1,989		18
Totals.....	4,349	62,846	295	889

